STUMBLE
BACK HERE...?
WOBBLE
WHY...
ARE YOU TWO...
STUMBLE

...SHOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOS-SIBLE!
ESCAP-ING THAT CAVE...
CHAPTER 15
KING'S GAME ORIGIN
STORY BY NOBUAKI KANAZAWA
ART BY J-TA YAMADA

YURI-SAN...
THE STORY:
THE YEAR IS 1977 IN THE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE OF YONAKI, PURPOSEFULLY ISOLATED FROM THE WORLD AT LARGE BY ITS INHABITANTS. HAVING LOST HER SON IN THE "KING'S GAME," YURI FORGED FAKE LETTERS TO LURE YUUJI AND KAZUNARI TO A TRAP IN THE CAVE. AGAINST ALL ODDS THE PAIR ESCAPE, AND COMPLETE THE 6TH ORDER BY PLACING SEVERED HEADS IN THE NICK OF TIME. BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW THAT YURI HAS SEEN THEM?!

WE SWAM ACROSS THE LAKE AND FOUND A WAY OUT ON THE OTHER SIDE.
IT WASN'T EASY, BUT WE MADE IT BACK TO THE VILLAGE IN TIME.
THIS... THIS ISN'T FAIR...
MY DAIKI IS GONE...
WHY SHOULD YOU TWO BE SPARED?!

LISTEN, YURI-SAN...
YUUJI AND I BOTH REGRET WHAT HAP-PENED
WE ABSO-LUTELY SHOULD'VE INVITED HIM TOO.
NONE OF US HAD ANY IDEA THINGS WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY.
FLINCH
BUT SAY WE HAD ASKED HIM TO COME OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, YURI-SAN— YOU WOULD'VE SAID NO, RIGHT?
MOMMY!
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?
TO PLAY WITH KAZUNARI-KUN.
ABSO-LUTELY NOT, IT'S PITCH BLACK!
OKAY..
BUT I WANNA PLAAAAAY!
IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS! STAY HOME WITH MOMMY, OKAY?
THAT...

THAT'S NOT TRUE!
DAIKI IS DEAD BE-CAUSE OF YOU!
EVERY-THING IS YOUR FAULT! YOU DE-SERVE TO DIE!
DIE
DIE!
死ね
DIE
死ね
DIE
死ね
CRICK
WOBBLE
DIEEEEEEE!!!

WHA...?
DRIP
ポタ
DRIP
ポタ
DRIP
ポタ
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
OH!

ほどく
CRACK
TWIRL
SNAP
NGH!
DAI-
KI—!
THUMP
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
だい…き…
DAI...KI...
どしゃ?
THUMP

DRAAAG
DAI...
KI...
DRAAAG
DRAAAG
DRAAAG

DAIKI...
DAI...
KI...
MOMMY'S...
COMING...

TO WHERE YOU... AND DADDY ARE...
ALL TO-GETHER AGAIN
MOMMY!

.....
WAVER
よろ…

ALL THE BOXES WE PREPARED WERE PUT IN FRONT OF THE BULLETIN BOARD
SHE MUST'VE FOUND THE ONE WITH HER SOH'S HEAD, TOOK IT OUT AND WALKED OFF WITH IT
WHICH MEANT SHE DIDN'T FOLLOW THE ORDER PROPERLY
YURI... SAN...
DID SHE NOT COM-PLETE THE KING'S ORDER...?
.....
WHY DIDN'T YOU PEOPLE—

YURI-SAN... MAY VERY WELL HAVE WISHED TO DIE...
DAIKI... DAIKI WOULD NEVER HAVE WANTED THAT!
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
NNH—!
...SO SHE COULD BE WITH HER SON AGAIN.

NOW, WHERE WERE YOU TWO...?
GOD... DAMN IT...!!

YOU'RE BOTH CLEARLY HURT.
GO GET THE DOCTORS IN THE MEETING HALL TO TREAT YOU
AAH. YOU CAN GIVE ME THE FULL STORY LATER.
DROOP
DOU-JIMA-SAN...
YES?
PLEASE...
BURY YURI-SAN AND DAIKI TOGETHER.
AH. SURE.

...ANY-THING
YURI-SAN'S BODY WILL HAVE TO BE EXAM-INED FIRST...
...BUT WHEN THEY'RE DONE I'LL MAKE SURE SHE'S LAID TO REST WITH HER SON
...THANK YOU.
I DON'T DESERVE YOUR THANKS I HAVEN'T DONE...

SUNDAY
AUGUST
13, 12:24
A.M.

YOU ARE?
YEAH, I'M JUST IN CHARGE OF MEDICAL SERVICES
I'M UNDER A DIFFERENT CHAIN OF COMMAND SO I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS
I EXPECT SO, YES.
SKRIP
...ARE THE ONES INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE.
THOSE OTHER GUYS IN THE WHITE LAB COATS...
A FEW OF THEM DECIDED TO RUN HOME.
ALTHOUGH...

KLATCH
THEY DID AND THEY'RE PAYING THROUGH THE NOSE, TOO
BUT MONEY DOESN'T TALK NEARLY AS LOUD WHEN YOU START FEARING FOR YOUR LIFE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I THOUGHT THE GOVERNMENT HIRED YOU ALL?
RUN HOME?
YOU SAW HIM PUNISH THAT WOMAN WITH YOUR OWN EYES
I MEAN THIS "KING" BASICALLY HAS THE POWERS OF A MYTHOLOGICAL GOD OF DEATH

IF HE FELT LIKE IT...
...HE COULD SLAUGHTER THIS WHOLE VILLAGE.
GOD OF DEATH...

NATSU-KO!
NATSU-KO?
NOT HERE EITHER..
MAYBE SHE WENT HOME.

WHERE DID SHE GO?
WHY ISN'T SHE HERE?
THE NEXT KING'S LETTER COULD COME AT ANY TIME.

YUMIKO-SAN WAS KILLED IN THEIR HOUSE.
WOULD SHE HAVE GONE BACK THERE ALONE?
OR. . COULD THE KING HAVE DONE SOME-THING...
AW DASH
KAZU-NARI-KUN!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
AH.
I'LL CHECK IN WITH THE COPS AFTER I GO TO NATSUKO'S HOUSE...

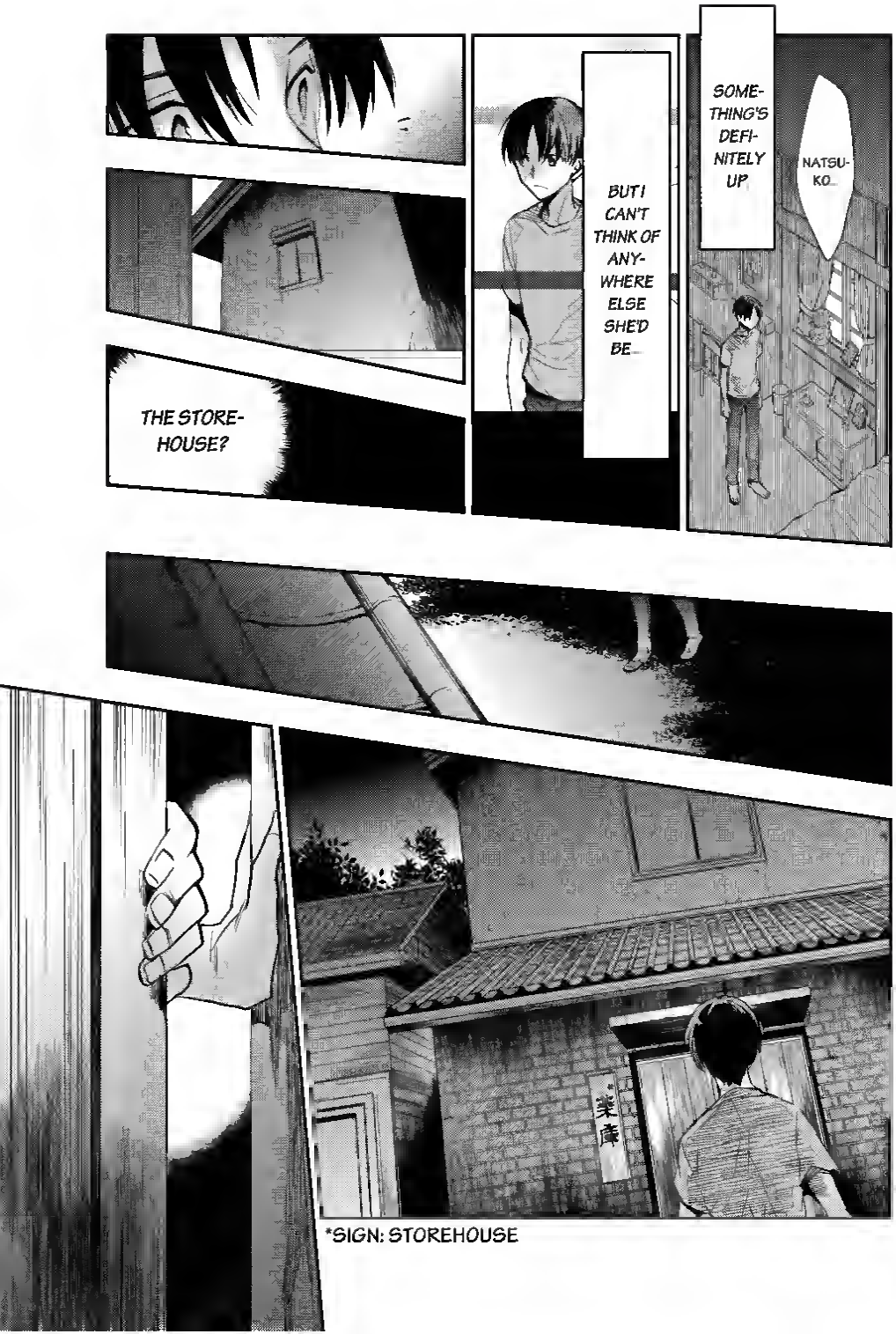
AND YOU HAVE TO TELL US IF YOU GO UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS AGAIN.
PROTECTING YOUR LIVES IS OUR TOP PRIORITY.
OKAY. WHEN YOU RETURN, WE NEED TO HEAR WHAT HAPPENED WITH KANDA YURI-SAN.
I'M JUST GOING HOME TO CHANGE CLOTHES.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
YES SIR, I WILL.

THEY HAVEN'T FOUND TODAY'S LETTER YET?
NO, NOTHING OVER HERE.
WELL, YOU FIND IT?
YOU CHECK THE MAILBOXES? THAT'S WHERE THE FIRST FEW WERE
IT'S WORTH LOOKING
WE ALREADY CHECKED— ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW ARE THE ROOFS
ANOTHER SQUAD'S TAKING CARE OF IT, SO LET'S MOVE ON TO THE CEMETERY

IS SOMETHING GONNA BE...
...DIFFERENT THIS TIME?
UP UNTIL NOW THEY WERE ALWAYS IN VERY CONSPICUOUS PLACES.
BUT NOW A WHOLE ARMY OF COPS IS COMING UP EMPTY-HANDED?
DASH

NATSU-KO!
ARE YOU HERE?
NATSU-KO!
CREAK
RATTLE
*TAPE: DO NOT CROSS
立入◎禁止*
禁止
SILENCE

*SIGN: NATSUKO
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
なつこ
NATSU-KO, I'M COMING IN.
CREAK
CREAK
SHIVER
CREEE
NOT HERE.


NATSU-KO...
SOME-THING'S DEFI-NITELY UP
BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANY-WHERE ELSE SHE'D BE...
THE STORE-HOUSE?
*SIGN: STOREHOUSE

I WONDER IF NATSUKO'S GREAT-GRANDMA USED THIS STUFF...?
NATSUKO'S ANCES-TORS WERE "SORCER-ORS."
I BET THIS IS STUFF THEY USED IN THEIR RITUALS.
COUGH
*JAR: POISON
MAN... THEY HAVE POISONS, TOO.
THEY'RE ALL VENEMOUS INSECTS AND ANIMALS.
KREE
THE INNER DOOR'S UN-LOCKED...

SMEAR
SQUIRCH
THE HELL?
SHUDDER

...!
JOLT
DASH
THAT PLACE IS DEADLY!
GOTTA STAY OUTTA THERE!
RUN, RUN!
GET AWAY FROM HERE!
HAA...
!?
!?
HAA...

SHINE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
TWITCH
NATSUKO'S NOT...
...AT HOME OR IN THE STOREHOUSE.
WHERE COULD
HFF...
HFF...
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYWHERE ELSE SHE MIGHT BE IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS.
NATSU-KO... WHERE DID YOU GO?!

—?!
SHUU-HEI-SAN AND...
WHAT'RE THEY DOING WAY OUT HERE?